



EILEEN
FISHER



April 20, 2016

Michigan Capitol Building
100 N. Capitol Ave
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Majority Leader Meekhof, Minority Leader Ananich, Speaker Cotter, Minority Leader Greimel, Chairman Nofs, and Chairman Nesbitt:

As businesses with a significant presence in Michigan, we are writing today to express our support for increasing the state's renewable energy and energy efficiency targets. Last March, Governor Rick Snyder outlined a goal of meeting 30-40 percent of Michigan's energy needs through both renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2025. We recognize the economic opportunity presented by clean energy investments and urge the legislature to expand our state's clean energy targets.

Our companies, like many of the leading businesses across the United States, have set significant goals around renewable energy procurement and energy efficiency investment because we recognize that environmental sustainability is essential to doing business both responsibly and successfully. Sustainability not only makes economic sense for our businesses, but it has also become something our customers and employees expect and our investors demand. We invariably assess the availability of sustainable sources of power when determining a region's competitiveness for new investments.

Michigan's current 10 percent renewable energy standard and one-percent increase in energy efficiency annually have proven cost effective for ratepayers. The standards [have attracted nearly \\$3 billion in renewable energy investment](#) in Michigan and resulted in annual savings for utility customers of nearly \$1 billion in future energy costs.

Strengthening Michigan's clean energy goals would not only make the state more attractive to businesses, but it would also allow Michigan to better diversify its energy portfolio and decrease electricity prices for all. A [new Lazard report](#) shows that wind and solar energy are now less expensive than natural gas and significantly less expensive than coal. [Analysis](#) commissioned by the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum finds that a new 20 percent standard for renewable energy alone would generate an additional \$6 billion in economic activity and create 40,000 jobs.

Michigan's current clean energy goals represent a great start. We can and we must do more to increase clean energy deployment across the state. Strengthening Michigan's renewable energy and energy efficiency goals would attract new investments, encourage innovation, save homeowners

and businesses money on their energy bills, and promote environmental sustainability that benefits all Michiganders.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter. For more information please contact any of our state government affairs representatives.

Sincerely,

Ben & Jerry's
Brewery Vivant
Eileen Fisher
General Mills
Nestle
JLL
Johnson Controls
Schneider Electric
Worthen Industries

Cc:
Gov. Rick Snyder
Valerie Brader, Director, Michigan Agency for Energy

For more information, please contact goldroberts@ceres.org, 617-247-0700 ext. 105